R E P O R T R E S U M E S

ED 014 277 JC 660 417

THE AVERAGE ABILITY STUDENT IN CALIFORNIA'S UNIVERSITY BRANCHES AND STATE COLLEGES.

BY- HALL, LINCOLN
COLLEGE OF THE SEQUOIAS, VISALIA, CALIF.

PUB DATE OCT 66

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.25 HC-$0.44 9P.

DESCRIPTORS- *JUNIOR COLLEGES, TRANSFERS, ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, *ACADEMIC ABILITY, STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS, COLLEGE PREPARATION, *TRANSFER STUDENTS, *FOLLOWUP STUDIES, STUDENT RECORDS, QUESTIONNAIRES, *AVERAGE STUDENTS, VISALIA, CALIFORNIA

FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS STUDY, "AVERAGE" STUDENTS WERE DEFINED AS THOSE WHOSE COLLEGE APTITUDE TEST PERCENTILE RANKINGS WERE BETWEEN 40 AND 60 AND WHOSE INTELLIGENCE QUOTIENTS WERE BETWEEN 90 AND 110. OF THE ENTRANTS AT THE COLLEGE ON THE SEQUOIAS BETWEEN 1953 AND 1962, STUDENTS OF AVERAGE ABILITY HAD THE SAME OPPORTUNITY AS THE ABOVE AVERAGE STUDENTS TO EARN THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN THE STATE COLLEGES AND THE UNIVERSITY. IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE COLLEGE WAS FULFILLING ONE OF THE MISSIONS PERCEIVED FOR THE JUNIOR COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA'S MASTER PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION--PROVIDING A PROVING GROUND FOR POTENTIAL 4-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS. THIS SUCCESS IS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT FEWER THAN ONE-THIRD OF ALL STUDENTS AT THE COLLEGE OF THE SEQUOIAS SUCCEEDED IN COMPLETING ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS OR IN TRANSFERRING TO A SENIOR INSTITUTION, BUT THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO DID TRANSFER (INCLUDING THE MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO WITHDREW BEFORE RECEIVING THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE) WERE CAPABLE OF AT LEAST ADEQUATE PERFORMANCE AT THE 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS. (HS)

ED014277

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

ERIC

RESEARCH REPORT

College of the Sequoias

VISALIA
CALIFORNIA

OFFICE of RESEARCH and PLANNING

RICHARD·JACOBSEN
Director

THE AVERAGE ABILITY STUDENT IN CALIFORNIA'S UNIVERSITY BRANCHES AND STATE COLLEGES

A Study Conducted

by

Lincoln Hall
Dean of Student Personnel
College of the Sequoias

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

DEC 14 1966

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGE
INFORMATION

10-66

THE AVERAGE ABILITY STUDENT IN CALIFORNIA'S UNIVERSITY BRANCHES AND STATE COLLEGES

The following study was designed to ascertain the academic performance of all "average" ability students who entered the College of the Sequoias between the years 1953-54 and 1963-64.

PROCEDURE

For purposes of this study, "average" students were defined as those students whose:

a. College aptitude test percentile rankings were between 40 and 60. (The percentile ranking indicates the proportion of students in the national norm group whose scores were exceeded by the individual.)

b. IQ's were between 90 and 110.

In order to be included in the study a student had to meet both criteria. If, for example, a student's aptitude test score placed him at the 50th percentile but his recorded IQ was 115, he was excluded from the study.

College of the Sequoias' transcripts of those students who were classified as average were examined to determine their academic performances at this college. Also, forms were sent to the state colleges and branches of the University of California requesting information on the academic performance of each of our former students. Although it took approximately six months to obtain the requested information, the final returns were encouraging. All 15 state colleges and the 5 branches of the University of California to which the students had transferred returned the information forms. Data on all 435 transferring students were received, including grade point averages for 343, or 80 per cent, of the group.

FINDINGS

1. Students Classified as Average. Table 1 shows the number of students who were classified as average in each of the 11 years for which data were gathered. The figures do not seem to indicate that the number of students so classified has grown disproportionately with the increase in enrollment during the years studied. Of the more than 10,000 entering freshmen enrolled in daytime classes from September, 1953, through January, 1965, 1770, or about 17%, were classified as average.

2. Number of Students Earning Associate in Arts Degrees. In Table 2, the number and per cent of students who either succeeded in meeting Associate in Arts degree requirements or were able to transfer to a four-year institution are shown. Only 37 of those who transferred to a four-year institution did so in less than two years of attendance. An additional 23 transferred to other junior colleges. Their records were obtained and revealed that eight had completed the Associate in Arts degree requirements. The eight were included in the count of students completing their degree requirements at COS.

TABLE 1

Number of Average Students in Entering
Freshman Classes, 1953-54 to 1963-64

Number of Students	ACADEMIC YEAR											
	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	TOTAL
Average Students	88	137	143	125	153	181	123	254	192	192	182	1770
Total Freshman Enrollment	482	592	830	942	921	1006	815	1004	1141	1128	1350	10311
Average as a Percent of Total Freshman Enrollment	18.26	23.14	17.23	13.27	16.61	17.99	15.09	25.30	16.83	15.64	13.48	17.17

TABLE 2

Students Completing Associate in Arts Degree Requirements

Year	Number of Students	All Students				Transfer Students				Terminal Students			
		Graduated		Did Not Graduate		Graduated		Did Not Graduate		Graduated		Did Not Graduate	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1953-54	88	32	36.4	56	63.6	27	38.0	44	62.0	5	29.4	12	70.6
1954-55	137	56	40.8	81	59.2	48	45.3	58	54.7	8	25.8	23	74.2
1955-56	143	49	34.3	94	65.7	36	36.0	64	64.0	13	30.2	30	69.8
1956-57	125	43	34.4	82	65.6	34	37.4	57	62.6	9	26.5	25	73.5
1957-58	153	55	35.9	98	64.1	50	42.7	67	57.3	5	13.9	31	86.1
1958-59	181	62	34.3	119	65.7	52	35.9	93	64.1	10	27.8	26	72.2
1959-60	123	39	31.7	84	68.3	35	38.5	56	61.5	4	12.5	28	87.5
1960-61	254	81	31.9	173	68.1	65	34.9	121	65.1	16	23.5	52	76.5
1961-62	192	56	29.2	136	70.8	50	33.3	100	66.7	6	14.3	36	85.7
1962-63	192	53	27.6	139	72.4	44	32.6	91	67.4	9	15.8	48	84.2
1963-64	182	42	23.1	140	76.9	30	23.3	99	76.7	10	18.9	43	81.1
TOTAL	1770	568	32.1	1202	67.9	471	35.7	850	64.3	97	21.6	352	78.4

One trend is suggested by the data. The proportion of all average students, both transfer and terminal, completing requirements for the Associate in Arts degree or for transfer to a four-year institution declined in the later years being studied. Pursuing the assumption that there has been a downward trend in the number of average students who succeeded either in meeting Associate in Arts degree requirements or in transferring from COS to a state four-year institution, the data were divided into two groups:

a. Those who entered COS during the five academic years 1953-54 through 1957-58, and
b. Those who entered COS during the five academic years 1958-59 through 1962-63. Data for 1963-64 were excluded because a large proportion of students take more than four semesters to complete Associate in Arts degree requirements.

TABLE 3

Associate in Arts Degrees Earned, 1953-54 to 1957-58
as Compared With 1958-59 to 1962-63 Entering Freshmen

Period	Total Students Graduated		Transfer Students Graduated		Terminal Students Graduated	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1953-4 to 1957-8	235	36.4	195	40.2	40	24.8
1958-9 to 1962-3	291	30.9	246	34.8	45	19.1

The results of these calculations are shown in Table 3. Using the Null hypothesis, the differences between the two periods being studied were found to be significant at the .005 level of significance. That is, there would appear to be little possibility that the differences were a result either of chance or of the sample selection process.

3. Graduation From the University of California and State Colleges. The performances of the students who transferred to a state college or a campus of the University of California are shown in Table 4. As can be seen, there appears to be no significant change in the proportion of students who graduated, the percentage varying between 49.2 and 60.9, with the exception of those students who entered the College of the Sequoias in the 1961-62 academic year. The relatively low 34.7 per cent graduating figure for the entering freshmen of that year may be explained by the fact that the majority of the students studied took more than four semesters to complete their four years of college after completing at least two years at the College of the Sequoias. These students would have had an opportunity to complete only four semesters at the state college or university branch to which they had transferred.

Tables 5 and 6 show the information from Table 4 divided between the state colleges and the University of California. Of the 435 students who transferred to a state supported four-year institution, only 20, or about five per cent, transferred to a University of California campus.

TABLE 4

Performance of Average Students Transferring to Four-Year State-Supported Institutions, 1953-54 to 1961-62

All Institutions																				
	1953-54		1954-55		1955-56		1956-57		1957-58		1958-59		1959-60		1960-61		1961-62		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Graduated	29	58.0	23	60.5	22	59.5	24	54.5	28	60.9	31	49.2	30	54.6	30	56.6	17	34.7	234	53.5
Did Not Graduate	21	42.0	14	36.9	15	40.5	19	43.2	18	39.1	30	47.6	23	41.8	21	39.6	29	59.2	190	43.7
Currently Attending	0	0	1	2.6	0	0	1	2.3	0	0	2	3.2	2	3.6	2	3.8	3	6.1	11	2.5
Total	50	100.0	38	100.0	37	100.0	44	100.0	46	100.0	63	100.0	55	100.0	53	100.0	49	100.0	435	100.0

TABLE 5

Performances of Average Students at State Colleges, 1953-54 to 1961-62

	1953-54		1954-55		1955-56		1956-57		1957-58		1958-59		1959-60		1960-61		1961-62		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Graduated	29	58.0	21	58.3	22	61.1	23	54.8	26	60.5	29	50.0	29	55.8	28	56.0	16	33.3	223	53.7
Did Not Graduate	21	42.0	14	38.9	14	38.9	18	42.8	17	39.5	27	46.6	21	40.4	20	40.0	29	60.4	181	43.6
Currently Attending	0	0	1	2.8	0	0	1	2.4	0	0	2	3.4	2	3.8	2	4.0	3	6.3	11	2.7
Total	50	100.0	36	100.0	36	100.0	42	100.0	43	100.0	58	100.0	52	100.0	50	100.0	48	100.0	415	100.0

TABLE 6

Performance of Average Students at the University of California 1953-54 to 1961-62

	1953-54		1954-55		1955-56		1956-57		1957-58		1958-59		1959-60		1960-61		1961-62		TOTAL	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Graduated	0	-	2	100.0	0	0	1	50.0	2	66.7	2	40.0	1	33.3	2	66.7	1	100.0	11	55.0
Did Not Graduate	0	-	0	0	1	100.0	1	50.0	1	33.3	3	60.0	2	66.7	1	33.3	0	0	9	45.0
Currently Attending	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	-	2	100.0	1	100.0	2	100.0	3	100.0	5	100.0	3	100.0	3	100.0	1	100.0	20	100.0

4. Grade Point Averages. Of the 435 students about whom information was received, data regarding grade point averages were received for 343, or 80 per cent. The distribution of grade point averages is shown in Table 7. No trend is apparent. It is interesting to note that for all years, the mean grade point average for the group who earned bachelor's degrees was 2.54 as compared with that of 2.20 for those who did not. Measures of central tendency do, of course, obscure extremes. Among the students were found grade point averages ranging from a low of .79 to a high of 3.84 on a four-point scale. One engineering major graduated Magna Cum Laude from San Fernando Valley State College while a social science major graduated Summa Cum Laude from San Francisco State College. Thirty-two, or 9.3 per cent, of the 343 students earned grade point averages of 3.0 and above while 52, or 15.1 per cent, earned grade point averages below 2.0. Obviously, academic performance was only one of a number of factors responsible for students not graduating. One might adduce a number of others, such as financial difficulties, health, marriage, etc., which may have interrupted a student's academic progress.

CONCLUSIONS

1. For those students who entered the College of the Sequoias between 1953-54 and 1961-62, and for whom it would have been possible to earn a bachelor's degree by June, 1965, the present study did not indicate that the student of average ability experienced reduced opportunities to earn the bachelor's degree in the state colleges and university.

2. There was a significant decline in the proportion of average students who either completed requirements for the Associate in Arts degree or succeeded in transferring to a four-year institution from the College of the Sequoias.

3. The College of the Sequoias was fulfilling one of the missions perceived for the junior college in California's Master Plan for Higher Education: that of providing a proving ground for potential four-year college students. This was evidenced by two facts: (a) Less than one-third of all students succeeded in either completing Associate in Arts degree requirements or transferring to a four-year college and, (b) most of those who did transfer were capable of adequate academic performances at the four-year institutions, including the majority of those who withdrew before receiving their bachelor's degrees.

TABLE 7

Mean Grade Point Averages of Students Who
Transferred to a Four-Year Institution

	Mean Grade Point Average									
	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	All Years
Students Who Received Bachelors Degrees	2.49	2.52	2.55	2.56	2.54	2.59	2.57	2.39	2.73	2.54
Students Who Did Not Earn Bachelors Degrees	2.39	1.94	1.81	2.12	2.14	2.41	2.10	2.23	2.31	2.20
Students Still In Attendance	-	-	-	-	-	2.81	-	2.55	1.93	2.46
All Students	2.45	2.30	2.25	2.39	2.38	2.51	2.38	2.35	2.45	2.39
									Mdn. =	2.36
									SD =	.459